

**Version with markings to show changes made**

***In the specification:***

At page 1, line 3, after the following text has been inserted:

The present application claims the benefit of provisional U.S. Appl. No. 60/223,372, filed August 7, 2000, which is herein incorporated by reference and EP 00 113 462.6, filed June 26, 2000 (in English), which is herein incorporated by reference.

***In the claims:***

1. (Once amended) A method for monitoring and evaluating the efficacy of a growth factor cancer drug in therapy, said method comprising the steps of:
  - a) collecting and preparing a sample containing cancer cells from an individual diagnosed for cancer and treated with a growth factor cancer drug,
  - b) determining the level of telomerase activity in said sample,
  - c) comparing the level of telomerase activity of said sample with the level determined in a sample in said individual before treatment or with a standard level of telomerase activity, and
  - d) correlating the level telomerase activity with the therapeutic effect of the growth factor cancer drug.
  
4. (Once amended) The method of [any one of claims 1 to 3]claim 1, wherein the growth factor cancer drug is an inhibitor of a receptor from the epidermal growth factor

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receptor family or an inhibitor of the signaling pathway triggered by the activation of a receptor from the epidermal growth factor receptor family.

5. (Once amended) The method of [any one of claims 1 to 3]claim 1, wherein the growth factor cancer drug is an inhibitor of the epidermal growth factor.

6. (Once amended) The method of [any one of claims 1 to 3]claim 1, wherein the growth factor cancer drug is an inhibitor of a receptor from the insulin-like growth factor receptor family or an inhibitor of the signaling pathway triggered by the activation of a receptor from the insulin-like growth factor receptor family.

7. (Once amended) The method of [any one of claims 1 to 3]claim 1, wherein the growth factor cancer drug is an inhibitor of the insulin like growth factor.

8. (Once amended) The method of [any one of claims 1 to 3]claim 1, wherein the growth factor cancer drug is an inhibitor of a receptor from the platelet-derived growth factor receptor family or an inhibitor of the signaling pathway triggered by the activation of a receptor from the platelet-derived growth factor receptor family.

9. (Once amended) The method of [any one of claims 1 to 3]claim 1, wherein the growth factor cancer drug is an inhibitor of the platelet-derived growth factor.

10. (Once amended) The method of [any one of claims 1 to 3]claim 1, wherein the growth factor cancer drug is an inhibitor of a receptor from the neurotrophic factors family or

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an inhibitor of the signaling pathway triggered by the activation of a receptor from the neurotrophic factors family.

11. (Once amended) The method of [any one of claims 4, 6, 8 or 10]claim 1, wherein the growth factor cancer drug is an inhibitor of a component of a MAP kinase pathway.

14. (Cancelled)

15. (Cancelled)

16. (Cancelled)

17. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein determining the level of telomerase activity in step (b) involves the use of a kit.

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